

# Operation Gift Cards

For our wounded and injured troops in Walter Reed and Bethesda Military Hospitals

Web site: [www.ctveterans.org](http://www.ctveterans.org)

Sponsored by **CONNECTICUT VETERANS** in 19 chapters, posts and detachments of the:

**American Legion:** Fairfield Post 74, Shelton Post 16, Fairfield 143

**Disabled American Veterans:** Stamford Ch. 13, Fairfield Ch. 19, Enfield Ch. 52, Greater New Haven Ch. 2, Derby Ch. 4, Milford Ch. 15, Manchester Ch. 17

**Marine Corps League:** Stamford Detachment 910

**Military Order of the Purple Heart:** Derby Ch. 1, Greater New Haven Ch. 103, New Britain Ch. 51

**Veterans of Foreign Wars:** Fairfield Post 9427, Derby Post 10,585

Also sponsored by:

Departments of CT: DAV, MOPH, and AMVETS

## SUMMARY

### Our Wounded Troops receive:

A visit from a representative of each of the participating unit sponsors for that particular month who will personally present a Thank You Kit from the unit. Each Thank You Kit contains:

1. \$20.00 gift certificate for PX.
2. A specially designed Thank You Card with a group picture of sponsoring unit.
3. A letter or memo from sponsoring unit describing the programs in which it participates.
4. Flyers, brochures, or newsletters from state and national HQ of parent organization describing their programs (applications for membership not allowed because the purpose of OGC is to thank our wounded not to overwhelm them with applications for membership to the various veterans organizations).

### The OGC Committee will provide:

1. Guidance so that the thank you kits are consistent in content and appearance and coordination so that the maximum number of kits are distributed in an organized manner.
2. All original artwork (thank you card and flyers), labels and envelopes for thank you kits, free of charge.
3. Liaison with appropriate Walter Reed and Bethesda officials.
4. Each participating unit will be provided a press release with 2 pictures and a description of their visit and OGC (see [ctveterans.org](http://ctveterans.org) for samples) which they can use for public relations.

NOTE: The participating units control how all of their money is spent on OGC. The OGC committee does not have a checking account and it does not accept any funds (its purpose is coordination). The envelopes and labels are donated by the 2 units that started OGC, the Derby/Shelton MOPH Chapter 1 and the Stamford DAY Chapter 13. The original artwork, guidance, and coordination is donated by the members of the OGC committee.

### Sponsoring Unit provides:

1. Purchases of either \$500, \$1,000, \$1,500 or \$2,000 in PX gift certificates.
2. Provide a group photo of unit members for use on the thank you card.
3. Provide phone no. and e-mail address of both a contact person and a veterans benefits expert from the sponsoring unit or from the state or national organization to be listed at the bottom of the thank you card.
4. A letter or memo from sponsoring unit describing the programs in which it participates.
5. Responsible for printing color copies (8-1/2" x 11") of the 2 sided thank you card and for printing copies of the letter from the sponsoring unit.
6. Assemble and stuff the thank you kits.
7. Arrange, through the OGC committee, to have your unit representative hand deliver the thank you kits to the wounded during one of the OGC monthly scheduled trips to Washington D. C.

Note: Because we try to present at least \$3,000 in gift certificates on each visit and because we are restricted to 5 representatives per visit, usually each participating unit is allowed to send one representative. Sometimes units are allowed a second representative but that depends on how many units participate and how many thank you kits each unit prepares.

For additional information see web site [ctveterans.org](http://ctveterans.org) or contact Al Meadows (203) 929-3357 or e-mail: [al.meadows@snet.net](mailto:al.meadows@snet.net)

\* In each of the last 10 monthly visits, we have had at least 3 units of veterans organizations participate, therefore each of the wounded we visited received between \$60 and \$100 in PX gift certificates.